story Solanine
art Maki

Prince Bari

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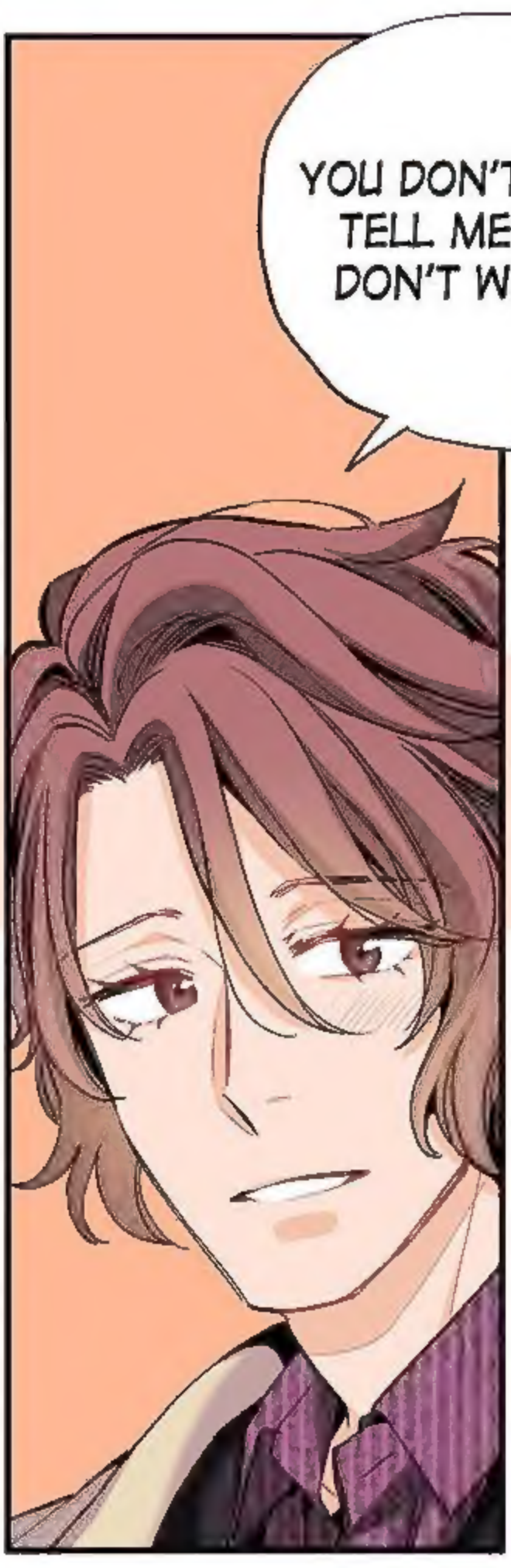


NO. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

OUR PARENTS... WELL...

THEY ARE NICE AND FULL OF LOVE, BUT THEY WERE ALWAYS BUSY.

GIVEN HER JOB, MY MOTHER WORKED LATE AND TRAVELED A LOT.

MY FATHER'S A PROFESSOR, SO HE WASN'T AROUND MUCH, EITHER.

THAT'S WHY I WAS ALONE MOST OF MY YOUTH. AND THEN, I WENT TO STUDY ABROAD AND LIVED IN THE U.S. SINCE I WAS 15...

BUT THEY ARE BOTH GOOD PEOPLE.

I SEE...

.....

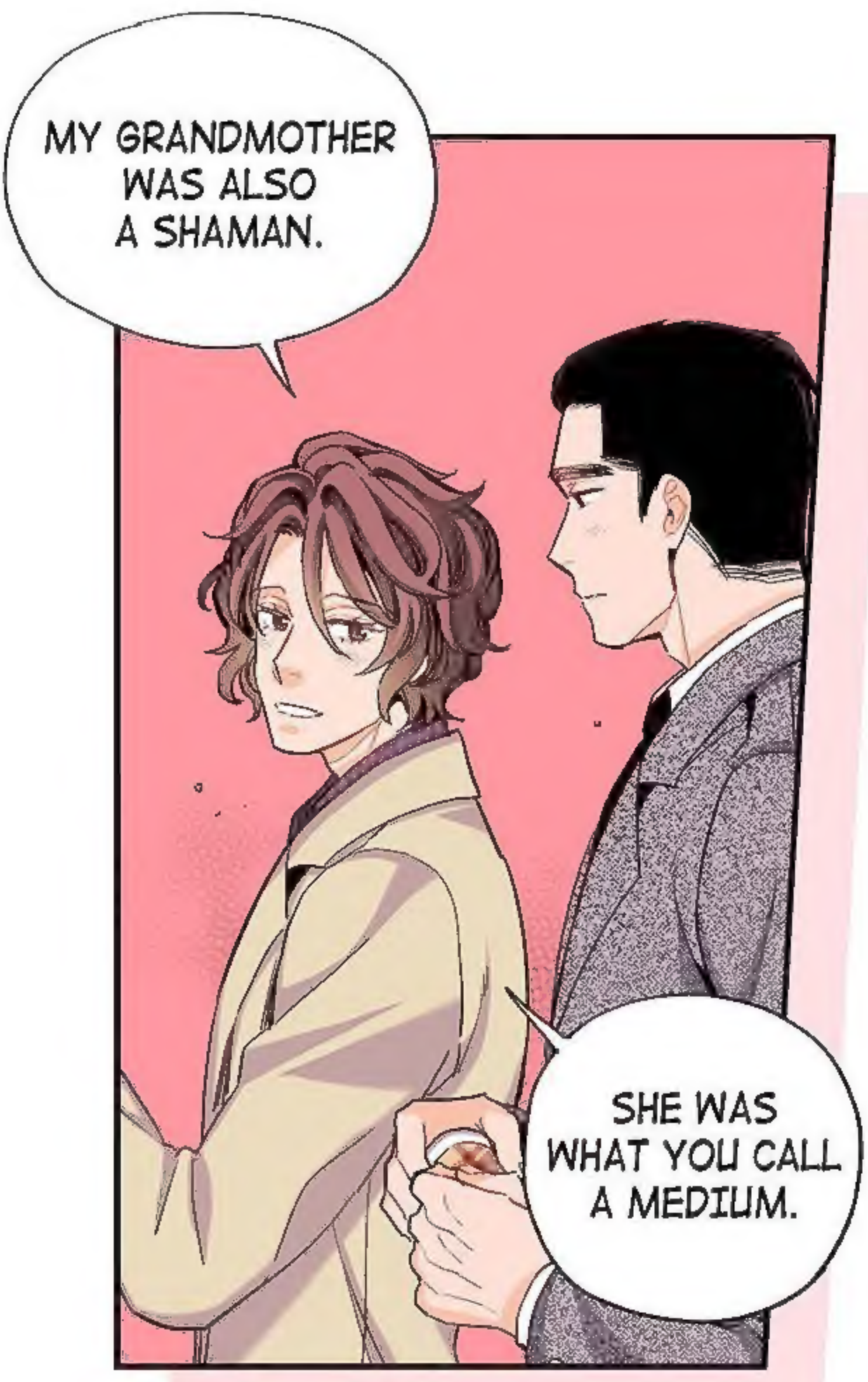
SINCE YOU TOLD ME ABOUT YOURS, I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT MY FAMILY AS WELL.

I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT THEM.

AS YOU KNOW ALREADY,

I WAS ALSO ALWAYS ALONE WHEN I WAS YOUNG.

I GUESS I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS.


MY GRANDMOTHER WAS ALSO A SHAMAN.
SHE WAS WHAT YOU CALL A MEDIUM.

...OH!
SO YOU TOOK OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS.

IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT, BUT... I GUESS SO, PRETTY MUCH.

I KNEW SHE LOVED ME, BUT SHE WAS STRICT AND SCARY.

IF I WHINED OR THREW A TAMPER EVEN A LITTLE BIT, SHE'D SCOLD ME SO MUCH THAT I'D BE BAWLING AFTERWARD.

SHE DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE IN TOWN TO THINK I WAS LIKE THAT BECAUSE I WAS A SHAMAN'S GRANDSON.

THEN... DID YOU NOT HAVE ANY OTHER FAMILY, OTHER THAN YOUR GRANDMOTHER?

I HAD A MOM.

MY MOM...

WAS ALWAYS VERY SICK.

ALL I REMEMBER OF MY MOM FROM MY CHILDHOOD IS HER BEING IN A GREAT DEAL OF PAIN.

CRASH

YOU SAID YOHAN WOULD BE FINE IF I GET THE GIFT! MOM, SAY SOMETHING!

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO US?! AAAACK!!

BEFORE I MET DONGA...

I WAS VERY LONELY.

THAT'S WHY DONGA IS VERY SPECIAL TO ME.

HE'S MY FAMILY, BROTHER, AND FRIEND...

I KNOW I'VE SAID THIS OVER AND OVER, BUT...

SMILE

I'M STARTING TO GET JEALOUS OF HIM.

STOP JOKING!

I THINK WE'RE GOOD BECAUSE HE ISN'T HUMAN.

HAHAHA

HAHA

HE'S LIKE A PUPPY OR KITTEN

...THAT'S SO MEAN.

SO... I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FELT WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.

ARE YOU AN ONLY CHILD AS WELL?

WELL...

HE DIED OF
AN ILLNESS WHEN
I WAS 9.

"HAD"?

YOU DIED?

ACTUALLY...
I HAD AN OLDER
BROTHER.

HYESUNG...
OH...

IT WAS YOUR WISH
TO BECOME HEALTHY AND
GO TO SCHOOL,
BUT YOU NEVER GOT TO
GO TO SCHOOL ONCE...

HONEY...
STOP CRYING.
HYESUNG WILL BE SAD.

OUR POOR
HYESUNG...

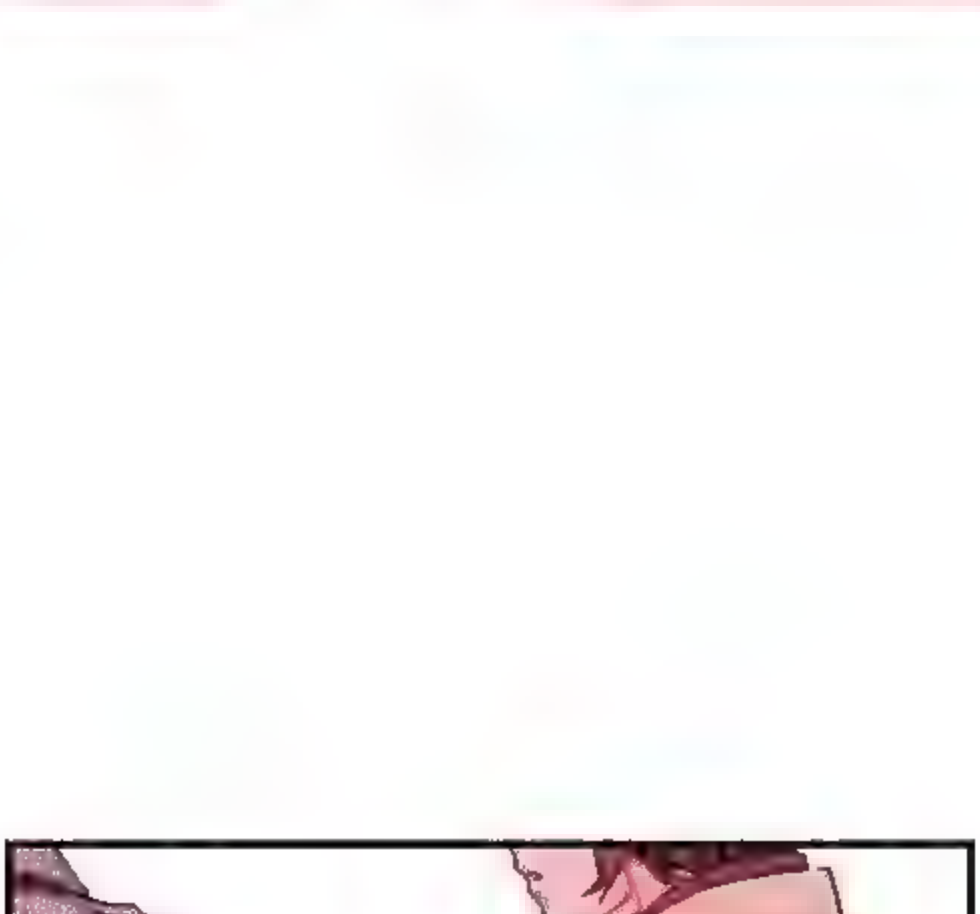
I NEED TO WORK HARDER, FOR HYESUNG'S SAKE TOO.

I WON'T CRY.
I'LL BECOME STRONGER.

I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PRY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

IT'S OKAY.

THANKS TO YOU,
I GOT TO THINK ABOUT MY BROTHER AGAIN.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.



I SHOULD HOLD YOUR HAND IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, RIGHT?

LIKE YOU DID FOR ME BEFORE.

THE TRUTH IS, I'M STILL NERVOUS ABOUT HOLDING YOUR HAND.

WE JUST NEED TO PUT THIS LAST ONE UP... SHALL WE FINISH UP AND GO?

...

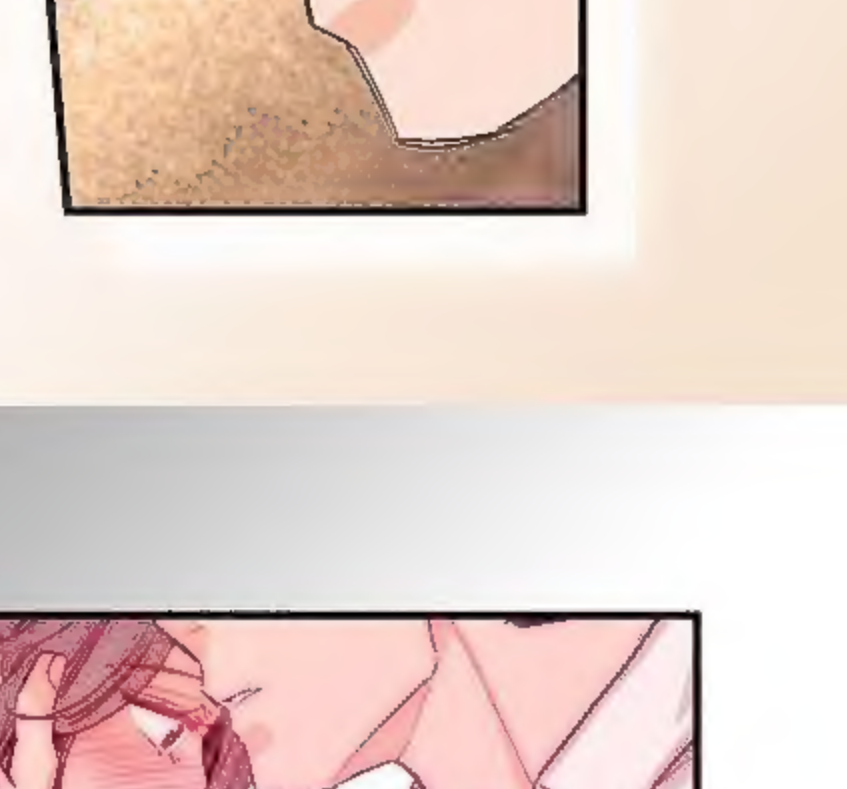
...YOHAN.

I'M OVER MY COLD NOW.

SORRY?

ALTHOUGH IT WAS NEVER A COLD TO BEGIN WITH, BUT...

I WANT TO KISS YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU MY COLD, SO I'LL REFRAIN MYSELF.



NO,
THAT'S NOT IT...
SO...

I WANT YOU TO.

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